

## Physics grad joins fellowship of the Rhodes

Sandra Robertson

**M**egan Engel, an honours astrophysics grad from the U of A and now a master's student in biophysics, has just been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, the fulfilment of a goal she set for herself when she was 15.



Megan Engel

"J.R.R. Tolkien is my hero. I've been profoundly influenced by his writing, and when I found out he studied and taught at Oxford, I wanted to follow in his footsteps," said Engel. "Tolkien saw creativity and art as acts of discovery and that our most important human duty is to use our gifts to their utmost potential, ideas that have stayed with me."

This must have resonated with Engel, because at 15 she was already living by that principle, which her father first introduced. "I was lucky when I grew up. My dad, Kevin Engel, a high-school physics teacher, was always so excited about physics and what it means to the world. He explained that when Newton theorized about gravity, he created a revolution, and when Einstein theorized about general relativity, he revolutionized a revolution."

The challenge of understanding deep design principles continues to hold her captive. "The creative process of research galvanized my desire for an academic career. Pulling apart a single molecule held in the vise of a beam of light reinforced my awe of the universe and my faith in God," Engel said. And when she begins her PhD in the fall of 2013, she's going to continue pushing her talents to

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## A man of the people



Brian Heidecker, former chair of the U of A Board of Governors, makes his way through the throng of graduates before accepting an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 21.

## President engages with the campus community

Bryan Alary

**T**he University of Alberta has deftly navigated tough fiscal times but will continue to make its case for adequate resources to address Alberta's shortage of skilled talent, President Indira Samarasekera said during her annual town hall.

The Nov. 16 town hall, with a question-and-answer format, touched on numerous issues on the minds of students, faculty and staff, from budget constraints and enrolment to online learning, graduate education and even the departure of a high-profile researcher.

On the subject of budget constraints, where the university is once again looking for 1.5 per cent savings, Samarasekera credited the U of A community for its fiscal prudence but said the cuts cannot continue in perpetuity. The province has committed to two per cent annual funding increases, lower than the four per cent needed to address annual costs such as wage settlements.

"I keep pounding at deputy ministers and so on that two per cent is not enough," Samarasekera said. "We are faced with cuts at a time when this province needs the kinds



Indira Samarasekera

of people we graduate. We just can't continue to cut."

Samarasekera credited the campus community for being part of the solution with the recent Umbrella Committee and 400 ideas put forward for rethinking how the university does business. Administration is starting to act on many of those ideas, she said, and efforts continue to lessen reliance on government funding through

scholarships, grants and a new fundraising case for support.

"It is vital that we continue to work with government, but with one voice and with targeted and strategic communications," she said, "basically talking about the long term and the need for long-term investments, and the need to build for the Alberta that is going to emerge after this financial crisis is over."

When later asked about the university's recruitment of international students and enrolment targets during such constraints, Samarasekera said those issues also have been raised with the province. She said international students make up just 10 per cent of undergraduate enrolment, a number that has to rise to meet the province's labour needs—by 2020, Alberta will be short more than 100,000 skilled workers.

"Why do we need international students? Because we have labour market needs that we cannot satisfy with Alberta students alone," she said, while also noting that international students do not take spots from domestic students. "The best solution is to encourage international

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# folio

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# U of A president among newest diamond jubilee honourees

Michael Brown

The number of University of Alberta recipients who have been honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal has soared to more than 30. Scores of university alumni have also been recognized.

The medals, which are being awarded during ceremonies in Alberta throughout 2012, were designed to thank Canadian citizens for their spirit of service, a spirit that has defined the 60-year reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The newest recipients occupy diverse roles at the university—including that of president and vice-chancellor.

"I am thrilled to join a remarkable group of Canadians, including University of Alberta faculty, staff and alumni, who received this distinction," said President Indira Samarasekera, who, after a long and fruitful career as a metals and materials engineering professor and an administrator at the University of British Columbia, was installed as the U of A's 12th president in 2005. "We at the U of A are grateful to all Canadians who were recognized with this award for their transformative work to improve our nation."

Other medal recipients include Margaret-Ann Armour, chemistry professor and associate dean (diversity) of the Faculty of Science, who has emerged as Canada's premier ambassador of science, volunteering to encourage girls and young women to consider careers in the sciences and engineering. Armour was named to the Order of Canada in 2006.

Clare Drake, famously known as the dean of intercollegiate hockey coaches, led the Golden Bears hockey team to six national championships and 697 wins between 1958 and 1989. He was named CIAU Coach of the Year twice and Canada West Coach of the Year four times. On June 1, 1990, the U of A dedicated Varsity Arena to him and renamed it the Clare Drake Arena.

David Lynch, who carved out his early career as an accomplished researcher and popular chemical engineering professor, has served as the longtime dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Over his 17 years as dean, Lynch has doubled the number of faculty, boosted recruitment and retention of new students and persevered through budget cuts in his early years, securing resources to grow infrastructure to the point that it is the envy of Canadian engineering faculties.

"We at the U of A are grateful to all Canadians who were recognized with this award for their transformative work to improve our nation."

Indira Samarasekera

Anne Fanning, professor emerita in the Division of Infectious Diseases, has advocated for global involvement in the fight against tuberculosis and has extensively studied the epidemiology of TB in Canada and globally. For her work with the disease, Fanning was named to the Order of Canada in 2006.

Vice-provost Ernie Ingles has spent his career expounding the virtues of libraries and collections to Canadians, and has been an active proponent in the use of technology to enhance collections. Before moving to the provost's office, Ingles spent a quarter century as the U of A's chief librarian and director of libraries, setting a course that has seen the U of A Libraries become Canada's second-largest research library system.

Brian Heidecker has been a passionate advocate for higher education and the U of A for nearly 30 years. A successful rancher from 1966 until retiring in 2006, Heidecker began his service to the U of A in 1983 when he became a special advisor to what was then the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. He was appointed to the university's board of governors in 2000, serving as board chair from 2006 to 2011.

Doug Goss, a graduate of the Faculty of Law and new chair of the university's board of governors, is a civic-minded lawyer who has left an

imprint on many of the institutions that define Edmonton, including Capital Health, the Eskimos and Oilers, Fort Edmonton Park, Kids Kottage, and the Support Network, to name just a few.

Also a law graduate, Doug Stollery, a former sessional instructor in the Faculty of Law and current instructor in the Executive Education program of the Alberta School of Business, made his name in the area of business and construction law. Stollery has leveraged good standing to further many capital-region causes, particularly in education and health, including tireless work with the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation, which was started by his late parents, Robert and Shirley.

Alumna Susan Green served as the U of A's first vice-president (external relations) from 2001 to 2006. Before coming to the university, Green spent time as the vice-president of the Alberta Cancer Board, and senior policy advisor to the province's health minister.

Linda Cook, alumna and sessional instructor with the School of Library and Information Studies, has advocated in support of libraries. Cook is currently the director of the Edmonton Public Library.

Laurier Fagnan, alumnus and music professor, is responsible for the vocal/choral program at Campus Saint-Jean, where he has directed the dynamic Chorale Saint-Jean for nearly two decades.

Deborah Kully received the diamond jubilee award for a career being a steady voice for those who are learning to find their way. A co-founder of the U of A's Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research, Kully, an alumna, served as the institute's executive director for 25 years until early in 2012.

Other alumni jubilee award winners include Alan Scott, former CEO of TELUS and Edmonton Economic Development Corporation, who has served the university as chancellor of St. Stephen's College and as an advisor to TEC Edmonton's board of directors; and Peggy Garritty, a senior vice-president with ATB Financial, who sits on the advisory board for the Canadian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility at the Alberta School of Business. ■

# \$2.5M awarded for breast cancer research

Julia Necheff

The value of university research in helping breast cancer patients strikes very close to home for Martin Ferguson-Pell, acting provost and vice-president (academic).

His mother was a breast cancer survivor. "She lived for nearly 30 years following her diagnosis and treatment. In the later stages of her life she started to experience significant secondary complications," Ferguson-Pell recounted as he recently spoke at an announcement

of just over \$2.5 million in grants from the Prairies/NWT region of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation to the U of A.

Being able to retain her independence and quality of life became the most critical issue for her during that period of her disease, he noted. "The things that we can do through research, development, improvements in care that result in a really good quality of life for someone in those later stages of their life ... this is an important goal for what we do in a holistic approach to managing breast cancer."

Six of the seven 2012 grants are for projects in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, where the recipients are working to increase basic understanding of breast cancer, and improve its diagnosis or treatment. The foundation is also funding a pilot project in the Faculty of Nursing to support male partners of women with breast cancer.

Judith Hugh, a pathologist in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and holder of the Lilian McCullough Breast Cancer Research Chair, received one of the largest grants—a one-time Investment Grant of \$965,000. She is working on a better diagnostic test that can distinguish between the two types of tumours that thrive on estrogen, which together account for three-quarters of all breast cancers.

It's crucial to be able to determine which form of estrogen-based cancer the patient has in order to choose the appropriate treatment, because one type requires chemotherapy and the other responds to hormone therapy. "This is a problem that needs solving right now," Hugh said.

Six other U of A researchers received CBCF 2012 grants. Oncologist Gordon Chan is studying how defective cell division might contribute to breast cancer; physiologist Chris Cheeseman is exploring improved PET imaging



Martin Ferguson-Pell

techniques to better identify small breast tumours; cell biologist Tom Hobman is studying the role of the Argonaute 2 protein in the spread of breast cancer, which could lead to compounds that block the progression of tumours in early stages; medical geneticist Zhixiang Wang is studying the mechanisms behind the chemotherapy drug Herceptin for an aggressive form of breast cancer related to the HER2 protein, and how to improve the treatment; oncologist Atiyah Yahya is studying whether magnetic resonance spectroscopy can serve as an early detection method for determining effectiveness of palliative radiation treatment in patients whose breast cancer has spread to their spine, potentially providing time for an alternate treatment and improved quality of life; and Faculty of Nursing researcher Wendy Duggleby is developing an online Transition Toolkit to support male partners of women with breast cancer. ■

# Following hero's path to Oxford

Continued from page 1

their limits by exploring the design principles in nature to guide the way for advances in energy research.

She credits her success to the holistic education she has received, the incredible facilities at the U of A and the National Institute for Nanotechnology, and her professors and advisors who have guided and inspired her to achieve her long-cherished dream. She says her next big goal is to one day earn a faculty position at the U of A so that she can continue her research, volunteering and outreach, through programs such as WISEST. She also plans to return to The Last Alliance: the University of Alberta Tolkien Society, unique in Canada, which she co-founded on the U of A campus in 2009.

The Rhodes Scholarships were established in 1903 in the will of Cecil Rhodes and are considered among the most prestigious graduate scholarships in the world. According to the Rhodes Trust, "The Rhodes Scholarships support students who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future.'" ■

# University releases case for philanthropic support

Folio Staff

On Nov. 15, Canada's first-ever National Philanthropy Day, the University of Alberta released its Case for Support, an initiative to increase targeted donations in support of its strategic fundraising priorities.

Titled "Together We Can," the Case for Support outlines priority investment areas that will advance the university's leadership in areas of significant global interest, including water research, nanotechnology and digital online learning.

"Philanthropy is a key enabler of our success," said President Indira Samarasekera. "Donations provide funds to launch new fields of research, ensure access for students regardless of their economic background, and advance innovation and education that will improve Alberta, Canada and the world. The

University of Alberta is a global leader—philanthropy provides the margin of excellence that gets and keeps us there."

Development of the case was led by the Office of Advancement, an area of increasing focus for the university. The newly appointed vice-president of advancement, O'Neil Outar, is encouraged that the case will sharpen the focus of academic leadership and prospective donors in preparation for a fundraising campaign three to five years from now.

"Philanthropists are problem solvers, as are our faculty and students," said Outar. "The university is tackling large-scale, global, interdisciplinary and complex problems. Philanthropic support can provide the dollars needed to engage in high-risk research, curriculum and teaching innovation, and student and community engagement."

The Case for Support is built from the cornerstones of the university's strategic and

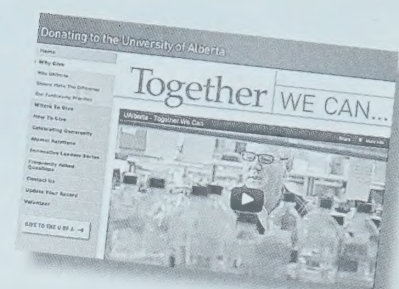
academic plans, and demonstrates the role for giving in advancing the institution's highest academic priorities:

- recruit talented students and faculty
- advance learning, discovery and citizenship
- connect communities—locally and globally
- provide a transformative university experience

The case also outlines how philanthropy was critical to the success of the Edmonton Protocol, a revolutionary treatment for diabetes that is now helping millions of people around the world.

The research team had lost some critical funding, yet the dean at the time was able to turn to a fund supported by donors to keep the team together so they could make their breakthrough.

The release of the case follows a year of record fundraising for the University of Alberta. A total of \$162.7 million in



philanthropic support was recorded in fiscal 2011–2012, and gifts came from a record number of nearly 20,000 alumni and individual donors.

"Whether through programs that more fully prepare students for the realities of being a global citizen, or the breakthroughs that philanthropy has enabled, the generosity of donors has a direct impact on the university, providing the funds necessary to build a foundation of excellence and the talent to achieve it," added Outar. ■

## Research chair envisions oilsands innovation

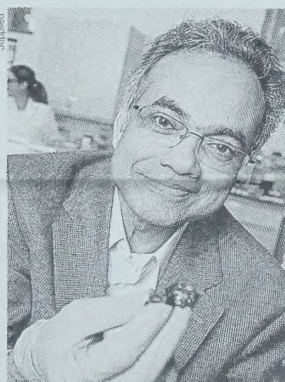
Michael Brown

If you want creative solutions to difficult problems, the first step is to unencumber the willing mind of all obstacles and let trust be the guiding light.

Such was the conviction put into the federal government's Canada Excellence Research Chairs

program, which in 2010 invited 19 of the world's top researchers in their field to take up residence in select Canadian universities and create a research environment of their dreams.

Renowned oilsands researcher Thomas Thundat agreed to one of the nation-leading four research spots awarded



Thomas Thundat

to the U of A, believing a free mind is capable of almost anything.

"It is hard to be creative when you have restrictions," said Thundat. "Here at the University of Alberta I have found total freedom."

Thundat, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Oil Sands Molecular Engineering, is leading a research team that "is casting kind of a big net" developing nano-scale sensors that could be used in making oilsands extraction and refinement environmentally friendly and cost-effective, and could have applications in biotechnology, environmental monitoring and even detection of diseases.

Thundat says the CERC, which is worth \$10 million over seven years, combined with the U of A's hands-off approach, has the potential to create a one-of-a-kind research experience.

"One of the beautiful thing about the CERC is it gives you the freedom to do what you want to do," he said. "The CERC has the vision that you bring people in and give them the freedom to take the direction they think is best for that particular project."

"That doesn't happen anywhere else."

Thundat says he is expecting a major piece of equipment before the year is out that will kick his research agenda into overdrive. He says the tool, called a quantum cascade laser, which was made possible in part by an \$800,000 Canada Foundation for Innovation grant, will help his research team unravel the microscopic secrets of the oilsands.

"These tools and techniques can give you information that cannot be obtained at this time—for example, understanding how the bitumen is stuck to the sand, where it is sticking and what is the force that is holding it together," said Thundat. "Once you understand that concept at the fundamental level, then it is easy to design processing techniques that can be more efficient."

Thundat says he envisions the creation of a handheld device that will be effective at characterizing molecules beyond oilsands and tailings ponds.

"Our focus is on tool development and since it is a tool, you can use the same tool for biomedical applications, looking at disease detection or pathogens in the water," he said.

Thundat notes that his unlocking of the mysteries of the oilsands has an element of environmental stewardship that goes beyond tailings-pond characterization to a place where water usage is drastically curtailed, if not eliminated altogether. "We're trying to develop a technique whereby we can heat oilsands deep underground without the steam-assisted approach, by using reactive power."

Until his state-of-the-art laser arrives, however, Thundat says he is happy to continue his research in labs that are unparalleled and to pick the brains of colleagues looking for new ways to approach old problems.

"It seems everyone is eager to collaborate and there is expertise available in every field," he said. "I find it easy to walk into anyone's lab and start talking about an idea." ■



Delivered in partnership with Eco Style Students' Association, the U of A Office of Sustainability and Goodwill Industries of Alberta, this year's sustainable fashion show entitled Rethink, Refashion, Reborn, took place Nov. 16 at the Students' Union Building Stage. The fashion show encourages students to purchase vintage or second-hand clothing to help reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfills and help decrease overall consumption levels.

## Solving Tanzania's math problem

Bryan Alary

Researchers from the Faculty of Education received \$3.2 million in funding over five years from the Canadian International Development Agency to improve mathematics education and skills among 430 of Tanzania's teachers—enhanced training that will ultimately benefit more than 13,000 students.

"After seven years of schooling, some 75 per cent of learners fail the mathematics component of the Tanzanian national examinations," said Elaine Simmt, principal investigator and professor of mathematics education. "There are students who finish school and are unable to do even the most elementary mathematics."

The problem, Simmt says, stems from the fact that primary education was not compulsory in Tanzania until recently. When that changed in 2002 with the advent of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, a large number of teachers had to be trained—but math was always a challenge.

"Teaching mathematics has been difficult for these teachers because, as learners themselves, they were not very successful in mathematics," she said.

Simmt's previous work with Florence Glanfield, interim chair of the Department of Secondary Education, and Joyce Mgombelo from Brock University, involved studying how universities can work with non-governmental organizations, government, schools and communities to enhance mathematics teaching.

For the CIDA project, the trio—all former classmates during their graduate days at the U of A—will work with John Parkins from the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and a colleague at the University of Dodoma to enhance the learning of educators who train teachers in Tanzania.

One of their main goals is to improve the number of Tanzanians with graduate degrees in mathematics education. In fact, half the learners involved in the project will receive degrees from the U of A through a combination of hands-on and distance learning, Simmt says.

The project team will address training disparities by ensuring local teacher educators are able to improve the mathematics skills of rural teachers. The team will also work with community leaders on understanding statistics and government reporting to enhance decision-making in local schools.

Simmt says the research will not only help improve education in Tanzania, but should also translate to enhanced mathematics skills around the globe.

"We will be learning lessons about how to work and provide support for mathematics teachers and learners in rural and remote communities, and I think there are some lessons for Canadians, too." ■

## President's annual town hall

Continued from page 1

students to come here because some of them will participate in the labour force."

On the subject of online and blended learning and the university's recent memorandum of understanding with Udacity, Samarasekera said the issue is coming to the fore because universities are being asked to reimagine themselves. The U of A has expertise in this area, and a visioning committee has been tasked with creating a strategy for the future—something the entire campus community will have input on.

"This is our chance to learn," she said of the Udacity MOU, which she noted is only one pilot project. "There's nothing sinister or secretive behind any of this. It's a chance to be part of, I think, a very exciting movement worldwide. What I would request is that we focus on the Visioning Committee and its report that will be shared."

When quizzed about her response to the departure of a Canada Excellence Research Chair that made headlines, Samarasekera said the circumstances of one

individual do not define the U of A experience. She also called attention to the positive followup story and a planned opinion editorial, which appeared Nov. 17 in the *Edmonton Journal*.

"We are strong and vibrant. The other three chairs we recruited are still here and doing a great job," she said. "Many of the faculty in this room that we have recruited from around the world and other parts of Canada are happy, along with those of you that are Albertans born and raised here." ■



# Researchers find human disturbances keep elk on high alert

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta researchers discovered that elk are more frequently and more easily disturbed by humans such as ATV drivers than by their natural predators like bears and wolves.

The U of A researchers, led by biologist Simone Ciuti, spent a year in southwestern Alberta. The study involved elk herds made up of females and their offspring. The researchers observed the animals' reactions to different rates of human disturbances in the form of traffic on nearby roads and off-road, all-terrain vehicles.

The elk in the study were found on a variety of land types—public, private and inside Waterton National Park.

The research data showed that starting with a rate of just one vehicle passing by an elk herd every two hours, the animals became disturbed and more vigilant. In this state the elk consume less food, which can affect their health and possibly their calving success.

The researchers found that the highest level of disturbance happened on public lands where the effect of hunting and ATV use was cumulative.

Contrary to what some people might expect, elk inside Waterton National Park during

the busy summer tourist season displayed less disturbance reaction than elk in more remote, unpopulated public land settings where motorized recreational activities were permitted.

Ciuti says this shows that the animals' reactions are not shaped by numbers of people but by the type of human activity they're exposed to.

Observing the elk from long distances so as not to alter their behaviour, the researchers took detailed notes documenting the frequency and amount of time the elk spent scanning the horizon for danger rather than foraging for food.

Ciuti says the U of A gave him an invaluable experience as a field biologist.

"Observing elk, especially in December, can be physically demanding, but you see things you can't even imagine, like a grizzly bear chasing an elk herd, trying to single out a calf," he said. "The U of A is the right place to be if you want to study animal ecology."

This research was supervised by U of A biology professor Mark Boyce. Followup research comparing birth rates in North American ungulates with levels of human disturbance will be conducted by researchers from the Boyce lab at the U of A.

The research was published Nov. 28 in the journal *PLOS ONE*. ■

# University of Alberta Press: Publishing books that challenge the imagination

Cathie Crooks and Michael Brown

The University of Alberta Press is an award-winning publisher that brings the university, Alberta and Canada to the world.

Started in 1969, the U of A Press publishes scholarly works and books for a broad readership and transforms strong manuscripts into outstanding books in a wide range of subject areas. It has published over 500 titles in print and electronic formats.

The publishing process consists of more than just bringing words to life—it begins by building collegial working partnerships with authors, and by creating a collaborative team of editors and designers.

An understanding of the collaboration involved can be found in the words of Roger Epp, first dean of Augustana Campus and author of *We Are All Treaty People*, who previously commented that the staff at the U of A Press provide sophisticated and highly skilled book sense, editorial care and design creativity. And yet, he notes, it's "an office as casual as a small town, where it is still possible to arrive without appointment and be welcomed into a conversation that is invariably about words."

Every book the U of A Press publishes goes through a rigorous process, starting with peer review, then undergoing intense scrutiny by the editorial and design staff, who assess the quality of

photographs and graphics, find the right "fit" for the project amongst their freelance editors, work with a cartographer (when maps are needed), select a professional indexer, design the content in the most visually compelling and communicative manner, and bid the job to printers that specialize in high-quality book production.

"Our authors and staff consistently win awards for content, editorial excellence and design. One of our important recent books, *People of the Lakes*, won 10 awards altogether, covering each of these areas, which was very exciting. Shirleen Smith, who worked closely with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on the project, called to ask whether this was

normal!" recalled Linda Cameron, director of the press.

In many ways, once the books arrive from the printer, the hard work is just beginning. The U of A Press is also responsible for helping to publicize important research and ideas, and to sell books locally, nationally and internationally.

It works with a national chain of bookstore representatives and print and electronic book distributors in Canada, the United States and Europe to reach bookstores, libraries and individual readers and scholars. Descriptive information


about the books (bibliographic "metadata") is sent to data aggregators in various countries and to online retailers such as Indigo, Kobo and Amazon. Reviews and interviews are sought vigorously, to ensure that the author's ideas are shared widely. Many authors are impressed by the extent of the efforts undertaken by the marketing and sales department on behalf of their work.

"It's not simply that they have made beautiful books, but they have also worked hard to get them out there," said Alice Major, Edmonton's first Poet Laureate and author of U of A Press-published books such as *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science and Memory's Daughter*.

In 2010, the U of A Press was named Publisher of the Year at the Alberta Book Awards. In their decision, jurors said the U of A Press displays its commitment to every aspect of publishing—editorial, design, production, promotion, marketing, sales, service to clients and service to the community.

"This press tackled an ambitious and courageous catalogue, ranging from fiction from the Canadian canon and original poetry, through literary criticism, to cultural theory and history, and language learning, and even sport—with its compass always pointing west, with its nets always cast for a broad readership, and with spectacular results." ■

## University 101



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The University of Alberta Press team (clockwise from bottom left): Alan Brownoff, designer; Peter Midgley, senior editor; Cathie Crooks, sales and marketing manager; Duncan Turner, editorial assistant; Sharon Wilson, administrative assistant; Mary Lou Roy, production editor; Linda Cameron, director; Monika Igali, marketing assistant.

# Two exhibits put U of A's art collection in the downtown spotlight

Isabela C. Varela

**P**assion Project and *Immortal Beauty*, two exhibitions that opened this month at the University of Alberta Museums at Enterprise Square, put the spotlight on the university's impressive art collection and the donors who have helped to build it.

With artworks from Canadian luminaries such as the Group of Seven and Jack Bush, and international artists ranging from Marc Chagall to contemporary star Tracy Emin, *Passion Project* features recent donations to the art collection—most of which have not been exhibited before. It also includes historically important works in the collection, such as the first major work of art donated to the U of A in 1931—a painting by Group of Seven artist A.J. Casson.

"*Passion Project* is about exploring the passion that drives collectors to pursue and acquire certain objects and artworks—why do people collect what they collect?" says exhibition curator Jim Corrigan, head of the U of A Art Collection. "It is also about philanthropy and the wonderful way that the passion of a collector can be passed on to countless other people when artworks are donated to a public institution. Donors are the lifeblood of public collections. Without their generous gifts of art and financial support,



Shiko Kataoka demonstrates her calligraphy technique at the opening of her exhibit *Immortal Beauty* at Enterprise Square Nov. 21.

institutions such as ours would not be able to develop world-class art collections that stimulate teaching, learning and the research of students and faculty."

Opening alongside *Passion Project* is the exhibition *Immortal Beauty*, a collaboration between the U of A Museums and the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research in the Faculty of Arts. Also curated by Corrigan, *Immortal Beauty* celebrates the work of master calligrapher Shikō Kataoka in the context of calligraphy-inspired works from the U of A Art Collection. Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse even make an appearance—in the form of prints—as examples of Western artists whose work was at times influenced by Japanese calligraphy.

At the opening reception for the exhibition, attendees watched as the 84-year-old Kataoka demonstrated her calligraphy technique with musical accompaniment from biwa player Junko Tahara. The resulting two new works of art are now displayed in *Immortal Beauty*. Until Dec. 29, visitors to the exhibition are invited to write a haiku inspired by the art for a chance to win the extraordinary prize of having their poem translated into Japanese and painted in calligraphy by Kataoka.

*Immortal Beauty* and *Passion Project* run until Jan. 26, 2013, at Enterprise Square. Admission is by donation. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. ■

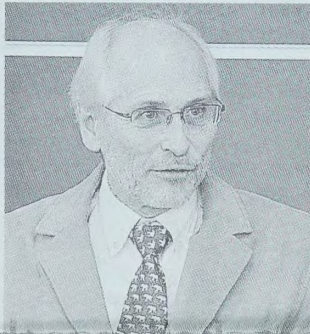
## New lives, mothers to be given a running start thanks to life-saving education in Ethiopia

Raquel Maurier

**T**he Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has received \$4.4 million in federal funding to help reduce the death and illness rates of mothers and newborn babies in Ethiopia. Currently, one in eight mothers dies from pregnancy-related complications in the developing country, meaning 25,000 mothers die each year.

The two training goals for the faculty and its partner agencies in Canada and Ethiopia are to improve midwifery training programs and improve the referral system of care in emergency birth situations. Many midwife educators are recent graduates themselves and have no real-life experience with handling high-risk deliveries. And with the current health-care referral system in Ethiopia, mothers requiring emergency care during delivery aren't getting the care they need soon enough.

"Ethiopia has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world, which leaves thousands of children orphaned and thousands of men widowed every year," says David Zakus, the faculty's director of global health and the primary lead for the project. "We believe by working together with other agencies, we can reduce the death rate for mothers and babies by 30 per



David Zakus is leading an international partnership to reduce complications in mothers and newborns in Ethiopia.

cent in our catchment area, which is in sections of the provinces of Amhara and Oromia."

**"With the death of a mother every day, our country suffers as the family of each dead mother starts to crumble and die."**

Lia Tadesse

Educators within the faculty hope to improve the midwife curriculum by ensuring midwife trainers get real-life experience, and know what to do in high-risk

delivery scenarios and when to seek additional help. Faculty members also want to increase the number of both trainers and midwives.

Another goal is to better educate rural Ethiopian women about the benefits of having a midwife or health-care provider on site during delivery. Right now, about half of all mothers in urban areas have a midwife or health expert during delivery. In rural areas, that number drops to four per cent.

Ensuring babies and mothers receive followup care is also vital, says Zakus, because complications can develop after delivery, leaving women with lifelong health issues.

The Canadian International Development Agency is providing the five-year grant of \$4.4 million for this project.

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry is taking the lead on this international effort, but is partnering with numerous organizations and universities in Canada, as well as the St. Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College in Ethiopia and the federal health ministry there. The Canadian partners include Mount Royal University's midwifery and nursing programs, the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, the Canadian Network for International

Surgery, the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada and the Ethiopian North American Health Providers Association.

Lia Tadesse, vice-provost for medical services at the St. Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College in Ethiopia, says the initiative is critical.

"With the death of a mother every day, our country suffers as the family of each dead mother starts to crumble and die. The suffering and burden of neonatal mortality is also extremely high. Enabling personnel to save the lives of mothers and children is saving a nation and promoting development." ■

## New awards celebrate ambassadors who connect communities

Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations)

**C**onnecting communities is a cornerstone of the University of Alberta's vision and mission. Among our goals: to be a conduit both for bringing communities together and for connecting the learning and discovery that occurs on our campuses to communities near and far. Are we succeeding? As vice-president (university relations), I can say with confidence that we are.

Our success is rooted in the work that our faculty and staff members undertake that has a strong, positive impact on the communities we serve. It includes the ways our students are engaging with their communities and leading substantive change.

Every day, I see evidence of the dedicated and enthusiastic efforts of many people both within our campus community and outside of it to reach out and create meaningful connections.

It's time, I believe, to celebrate these efforts and reward our university's exceptional ambassadors and champions.

This coming January 25, 2013, marks the first deadline for nominations for three new Community Connections Awards. First, the Community Scholar Award will recognize academic staff members who not only have demonstrated excellence in research and scholarship, but are also committed to taking their expertise into the community through activities such as media interviews, public speaking, school visits and volunteer work. Second, the Community Leader Award will recognize individuals or teams of U of A faculty, staff and students who go to special lengths to showcase the university as a place of community engagement through the creation of and participation in community events, programs, etc. And, third, the University of Alberta Advocacy Award has been created to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of individuals or groups who do not work or study at the U of A but do contribute their time and talents to raising the reputation of the university and enriching the experience of faculty, staff and students.

Help us to celebrate those who devote their time, talents and expertise to extending and strengthening the U of A's connection to communities both near and far by nominating a colleague, student or community member who you know has provided outstanding service to the U of A. Nomination forms and detailed criteria for each award are available on our Community Relations website at [communityrelations.ualberta.ca](http://communityrelations.ualberta.ca). I look forward to seeing your submissions on January 25, 2013. ■

## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Ann-Marie Przyslupski, who won the regift to end all regifts—the fabulous Butterdome butter dish—as part of Folio's Nov. 16 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Przyslupski identified last week's photo as the snow-covered Earth Sciences Building. Up for grabs this week is In Case of Fire: Please Remain Calm Then Slowly Rebuild Your Life, the riveting tale of how Spencer Beach, who spoke on campus at the 2012 Risk Management Symposium Nov. 22, survived life-threatening burns and found harmony in the aftermath. To win, identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to [folio@ualberta.ca](mailto:folio@ualberta.ca) by noon on Monday, Dec. 10, and you will be entered into the draw.



# Art prof paints new portrait of Canada's military context abroad

Michael Brown

If you ever find yourself wearing military armour and someone starts shooting, don't turn sideways. The bulletproof vest you're wearing doesn't have armour plating on the sides.

"I wasn't really interested in the war machine, but rather the spots Canadians find themselves in."

Allen Ball



Titled *Assault Course*, the photo at left is one of many Allen Ball took during his time on an air base in Egypt; at right is his interpretation of the photo.

That was just one nugget of advice art professor Allen Ball found particularly ear-perking during a two-week posting in 2007 to an observer base near El Gorah, Egypt. The air base, located along the Egyptian border with Israel, is home to a small contingent of the Canadian military, which is part of a multinational force helping to uphold the Camp David Peace Accord that monitors troop and armament numbers in the area.

"The experience was fundamentally ground-shifting for me," said Ball, who was invited to the base as part of the Canadian Forces Artists Program, which affords Canadian artists the opportunity to record Canada's presence in theatres of

operation around the world. "I was never really worried about anything over there until I was asked to put on the armour. The gravity of where I was hit me and I was like, 'Oh yes, things do happen here.'"

Armed with only a camera, Ball says he wanted to use his time in El Gorah to capture the spaces Canadians work in.

"I wasn't really interested in the war machine, but rather the spots Canadians find themselves in," said Ball. "I was trying to show that the spaces Canadians work in are real. All we tend to get from the media is the fighting; we don't get the day-to-day, which is most of what it is for the military. This is much more of a strangely realistic attempt to

portray the context Canadians find themselves in."

Growing up in England, Ball says, he was steered clear of the military by a father who had fought in the First World War. And although Ball chose the path of an academic, he says the idea of serving in the military intrigued him, particularly in the 25 years since he came to Canada to work at the U of A.

"I felt I could pay back my commitment to Canada and I also wanted to serve Canada the best way I know how," said Ball. "As an artist, it is rare that you are able to work on behalf of your country instead of yourself."

After returning from his posting, Ball began showing his photos

in different venues across the country. "The images were so large you felt like you were inside of them."

Meanwhile, Ball began the task of remaking the photos into a series of paintings.

"On the one hand, the photographs document what happened, unadulterated," he said. "On the other hand is my attempt to disrupt the photographs and instill the experience of taking those photographs."

In the end, Ball turned his experience in the Middle East into 12 paintings, two of which were on display in Vancouver as part of a Canadian Forces Artists Program exhibit entitled *11 Artists for 11/11*, which paid homage to the sacrifices of those who are serving and have served in the Canadian Forces.

The paintings are running in the Strathcona County Art Gallery @501 in Sherwood Park as part of Ball's *The Wordless Book and other deserts* exhibit, which he says is based on the Baptist catechism used by evangelical missionaries to teach the life of Christ non-verbally using sequences of the colours red, white, gold and black.

Ball says the exhibit is meant to draw links between the Crusades of the 14th century and modern western militaries trying to bring democracies to regions around the world.

"The Crusades went through exactly the same part of the world in the 14th century, but today

instead of Christianity it is called democracy," he said.

"It's this idea that somehow we can impose our order and the way we structure our society on a completely different culture."

Ball adds he isn't against the military but wants to start the conversation about Canada's ambiguous role in the world, whether it's as "peacekeepers, peacemakers or peace builders."

"These projects show that people are actually connected to the community in very different ways than what people think academics normally do," he said.

"You get to present what the university does in a very real way, a respectful way and a poignant way." ■



Allen Ball





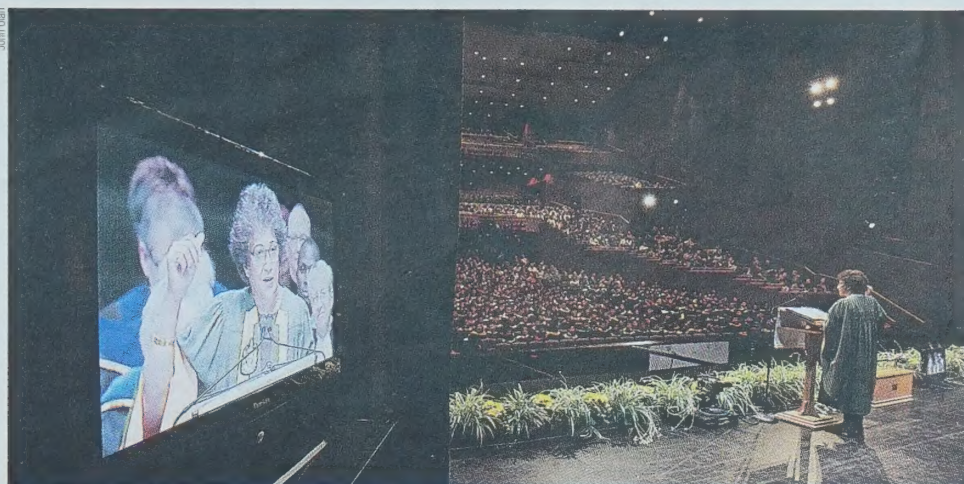
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# 2012 honorary degree recipients offer grads wise words to live by



President Indira Samarasekera addresses graduands during the fall convocation ceremony Nov. 20.



Leigh Pinard takes an unprompted plunge in the Van Vliet East Pool during a photo shoot in advance of graduating from nursing.

Folio Staff

At the University of Alberta's latest fall convocation, Nobel Prize recipients, a legal innovator and one of the all-time great U of A ambassadors accepted honorary degrees and imparted these words of wisdom to this year's graduands:



"I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH the words of Dr. Martin Luther King: If you don't see yourself as someone who can fly, run. If you don't see yourself like a runner, walk. If you don't see yourself as someone who can walk, crawl. But whatever you do, the world needs you to keep moving forward."

Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Liberian feminist and respected human-rights activist, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 20



"YOU ARE THE ONES WHO make history, you are the ones who change the current and create the future. You are the ones who create the best ways to achieve happiness in this world. Please trust in yourself and your colleagues around the world. We can change this world."

Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Yemeni journalist, politician and co-founder of Women Journalists Without Chains, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 20



"IF YOU FACE ADVERSITY, never give up. If you are confronted with problems, sometimes they can be overcome. Sometimes you can decide not to confront them, but to go around them. And some of you will have to change direction altogether. But whatever you do, do not become a victim."

Marguerite Trussler, U of A alumna and former provincial judge, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 21



"BECOMING INVOLVED IN our community, our nation and indeed the world can have powerful benefits on your career and to society. Always strive to give more back to society than you receive from it."

Brian Heidecker, former chair of the U of A Board of Governors, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 21



Marguerite Trussler approaches the stage in advance of receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 21.

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# Researchers look to pin down the public good

Jamie Hanlon

What is the common good of Canada and how does it fit with where we are as a nation? A new survey, commissioned by the Trudeau Foundation and interpreted by three U of A researchers, reveals some interesting views.

The survey results were released Nov. 22 to 24 as the ninth annual Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Conference arrived in Edmonton. U of A professors Peter Carver, Lois Harder and Harvey Krahn analyzed an Environics poll asking Canadians about the priorities and issues they want their government to focus on.

Krahn and his colleagues critically interpreted the results and drew some conclusions that politicians and policy-makers would do well to note.

"We started with some common questions: On what values do we have public consensus, or not, in Canada? How do we make decisions? And how well are we doing on this?" said Krahn.

Krahn wasn't surprised by Canadians' high support for gender equality, religious tolerance and the right to freely communicate their thoughts to their politicians. What stood out for him was that nine in 10 Canadians seemed to support publicly funded health care. He says he finds this result interesting given the ongoing debate on the issue, with notions such as a two-tier system, versus the overall public support shown in the survey.

"There is, I think, a disjuncture between the debate we sometimes see in the media, which is probably promoted by

government, and what the public actually thinks," he said. "A public health system is extremely important."

There was "encouraging" support for bilingualism, environmental protection and social programs, but Krahn notes that there was less support for immigration, a strong military or a reduction in income inequality. Low taxes rounded out the least popular items.

"There's a strong constituency in this country with a fairly loud voice that is pushing for low taxes, but on average, only 20 per cent of Canadians strongly agree" with keeping taxes low even if it limits government services, said Krahn.

Krahn says this poll is a pulse check of values that matter to the Canadian public. Governments essentially have two options: take the policy advice Canadians are offering them or work harder to convince the public that the government's priorities are the important ones to consider. Krahn points out that although governments can and often do opt for the second option, there is strong support in the poll for a government that listens to its people. Yet when it came to looking at how different levels of government fared at reconciling differences and competing interests, he says the statistics show that only one in five Canadians think government is doing a good job in this respect "most of the time," with half responding "some of the time."

"When I look at this, I think it's a pretty lukewarm response. If my students were saying I was doing a good job balancing their learning needs with my pedagogical goals only 20 per cent of the time, I'd think I would have some work to do," said Krahn.

"Clearly, what the public is thinking or seeing doesn't come through as a strong endorsement of how well they think the government is handling competing interests."

## CANADIANS ON THE COMMON GOOD

A national survey on what constitutes the common good and how to reconcile differences in Canada

Do we share a common set of values and priorities?

Canadians are divided about what values are important and what to focus on in the future.

Most Canadians strongly agree on:

- Gender equality: 92%
- Participation in the political system: 78%
- Respect for all religions: 67%
- Public health system: 66%

About half of Canadians strongly agree on:

- Strict laws on crime: 59%
- Respect for both official languages: 51%
- Social safety net: 51%
- Environmental protection: 49%

Less than half of Canadians strongly agree on:

- Immigration: 39%
- Strong military: 27%
- Reducing income inequality: 27%
- Low taxes: 20%

Does government do a good job of balancing competing interests?

Canadians feel that federal governments do a good job of balancing competing interests as well as they can, but there are still many differences.

Most of the time: 50%

Some of the time: 50%

Not very often: 20%

Almost never: 7%

Don't know/no answer: 3%

Does the public approve of grassroots citizen action?

Canadians support grassroots citizen action as a useful and safe means to address social issues.

HST: 86%

Occupy Movement: 82%

Quebec Student Protest: 66%

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## Udacity memorandum sparks excitement, questions

Folio Staff

The University of Alberta signed a memorandum of understanding with leading online education provider Udacity on Oct. 30. The announcement was met with a great deal of excitement and also many questions about what the agreement entails.

The MOU begins exploration of a research partnership for the collaborative development of systems for delivery, measurement and assessment of online learning courses and experiences. In addition, the MOU states that Udacity and the university will discuss the possibility of piloting one or more courses in the Faculty of Science using the Udacity platform.

"In essence, we have agreed to talk," said acting provost Martin Ferguson-Pell. "A lot of attention has been focused on piloting a course in the Faculty of Science, but what sets the U of A apart from other schools working with Udacity is the involvement of our

researchers in education, assessment and machine learning. There is nothing in this MOU, nor will there be in any future agreement, that obligates faculty members to work with Udacity or to develop online course material. Nor will any instructor's copyright materials be taken and given to a third-party vendor."

Further context for the MOU signing was provided in a post on the U of A blog by Ferguson-Pell.

There has been such great interest in this particular agreement that administration has decided, with agreement from Udacity CEO Sebastian Thrun, to release the agreement. The document is now posted online.

Udacity considers the U of A a good partner because the university is already at the forefront of scholarship and innovation in this area. Here are some examples:

- Demonstration projects for the use of flipped classes (in which lectures are offered online and class time is used for discussion

and project work) in the Faculty of Education ensure our graduates are ready to use these techniques in our schools.

- The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine uses synchronous, online and blended technologies to deliver the full professional entry master's curricula in physical therapy and occupational therapy to three campuses simultaneously. This is having a significant impact on the training of clinicians who are taking up positions in rural Alberta.
- The Faculty of Nursing has a major commitment to using digital learning technologies, even having a unit dedicated to this purpose (eLearning Services) that supports the use of eClass and eClass Live for a wide range of students, including the Post RN program.
- The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has invested heavily in the deployment of Homer, a sophisticated online learning environment used extensively by all

Thanks to the U of A's reputation for innovation, and our effective adoption of these technologies, opportunities to collaborate continue to develop. These include the possible collaboration that has formed the basis of the MOU with Udacity.

our medical students. This is just one example among many involving online learning in the faculty.

- The Alberta Innovates Centre for Machine Learning has been collaborating with the Faculty of Education to investigate how real-time analysis of online student responses can help students progress through their coursework and improve their understanding. Other work from this collaboration includes the development of advances in methods of assessing student assignments.

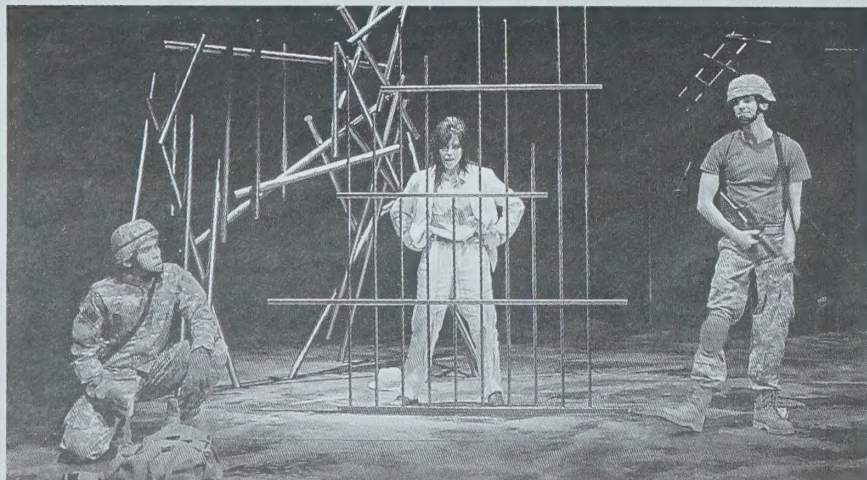
Thanks to the U of A's reputation for innovation and effective adoption of these technologies, opportunities to collaborate continue to develop. These include

the possible collaboration that has formed the basis of the MOU with Udacity.

The research partnership with Udacity is one small part of a larger suite of recommendations made by a campus-wide Visioning Committee, which President Indira Samarasekera commissioned to explore and make recommendations on ways the university might want to amplify its existing strengths in emerging blended and online educational experiences and research toward the student experience of the future.

The committee's draft report is under review, and a summary will be released to the campus community in the coming weeks. ■

## Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo



U of A Studio Theatre presents the Canadian premiere of Rajiv Joseph's drama, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, at the Timms Centre for the Arts until Dec. 8.

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# Schulha family goes five-for-five at the U of A

Bryan Alary

The University of Alberta has always been Lindsay Schulha's playground. It's no wonder, considering Schulha's parents, Dale and Bonnie, met 40 years ago as undergraduates in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, where the family roots run deep. Bonnie was on the figure skating team; Dale played football for the Golden Bears and later received a master's degree before spending 25 years with the faculty—including two terms as director of athletics. Green and gold also runs in the veins of brothers Ryan and Aaron.

Ryan, the oldest, also graduated with a physical education degree (class of '02) and played for the football Bears, where he now coaches. Aaron received bachelor's ('05) and master's degrees in coaching ('09) and played Bears volleyball. (He is now head coach of men's volleyball at Red Deer College).

"My weekends definitely consisted of U of A Athletics," says Lindsay, the youngest at 26, who as a one-month-old could be seen bundled up in the stands at campus games.

Friday nights were spent in the gym for volleyball or basketball, in between shuttling to hockey rinks. Saturdays meant football tailgate

parties and even more time in the gym or rink. If there was a Sunday game to play, the Schulhas were there.

"I pretty much spent the majority of my spare time on the U of A campus," says Lindsay. "Studying here was like a natural, going-home sort of feeling for me."

On Nov. 20, when Lindsay received her degree in recreation, sport and tourism, she became the fifth member of her immediate family to graduate from the physical education faculty. In fact, her degree marks the family's seventh—how's that for a compelling stat line?

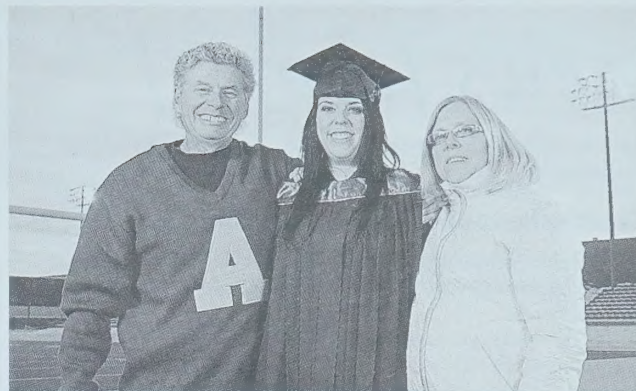
Although she is proud to be part of an impressive family legacy, Lindsay says it wasn't her only reason for choosing the U of A and its strong academic and athletic traditions.

"All three of us absolutely loved athletics and wanted to be in the bachelor of physical education route," she says. "For me, coming out of high school, I knew I wanted to be in the phys-ed faculty—there was never any doubt."

If anything, the family history and advice from mom and dad helped Lindsay find her true path after her first choice, athletic therapy, wasn't the right fit. Like any smart player faced with a broken play, she consulted Coach Dad, who suggested recreation, sport and tourism.

"It was a life-changing moment for me," she says. "As soon as I started taking those courses I knew it was the right program for me. It was so much like home."

Looking back, it was the sort of winning advice that underscored



Lindsay Schulha, pictured with proud parents Dale and Bonnie, is the fifth member of her family to earn a degree from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.

the supportive environment in the Schulha household. Though certain rules were demanded—like getting a post-secondary education—following in mom and dad's footsteps was not among them, Dale says.

But that doesn't mean there isn't some pride over how things turned out.

"Since I was 18 years old and Bonnie was 18 years old, it's been a home away from home for both of us," says Dale, who stepped down as athletics director in 2010. "To see your kids go that route and develop so many of their own fond memories of our faculty and of their university and their athletic careers at the university, and to see them with lifelong friends—it's pretty special."

Convocation was extra emotional for the Schulhas after a serious cardiac event prevented Dale from attending Aaron's ceremony in 2009. Still part of the phys-ed faculty, he had a good view from the stage.

"I'm thankful in so many ways and feel so special with our family

situation," he says. "The university has been so good to us as a family."

For Lindsay, convocation marks the end of studies that have exposed her to a world of possibilities, from playing Pandas soccer for a year to doing a practicum with the 2012 Alberta Winter Games, where she also landed a job as one of four games co-ordinators. It was a diverse portfolio in which she managed 21 different sports, 26 facilities and 31 cultural performances for one large event with nearly 3,000 athletes.

"It was unbelievable. It was by far the best thing that could have ever happened to me," says Lindsay of the experience. "It set me up unbelievably well for handling that kind of multidimensionality and multitasking, and through that experience I definitely did get a bit of games fever."

Ultimately, Lindsay aspires to hold an athletics directorship or other leadership role—kind of like another Schulha.

"Typically, of course, just like my dad," she laughs. ■

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# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the stories that recently appeared on the ualberta.ca news page. To read more, go to [www.news.ualberta.ca](http://www.news.ualberta.ca).

## Healthy heroism a win-win for campus community

A mentoring program and a traffic-light labelling system for campus food will soon be making the U of A campus a healthier place for students, staff and faculty.

The two winning ideas from the second annual Heroes for Health Challenge, organized by the U of A's Health and Wellness Team, were announced Nov. 17 at the Healthy Campus Symposium, where 20 teams competed for two \$5,000 prizes provided by University Wellness Services and Health Promotion and WorkLife Services to make their projects a reality.

The mentoring program will see trained third- and fourth-year student mentors help their first- and second-year classmates connect with existing campus resources and develop supportive relationships.

Feeling that healthy food choices are an important part of campus wellness, the group of nutrition and medical students developed a traffic-light project that would label campus foods with simple red, yellow or green tags, with legends posted nearby.

"I really love this university, and I believe it is the lifeblood of Edmonton," said Braden Teitge, a member of the traffic-light system for food choices. "I absolutely love that this campus is striving to uplift the health of the whole people."

## Developing smart drugs to home in on cancer

John Lewis, the Sojorny Chair in Prostate Cancer Research and an associate professor in the Department of Oncology, is leading a team that is using nanotechnology to develop a drug that kills only cancer cells.

Lewis explains chemotherapy goes through the body and kills any cells that are dividing, even healthy ones—which is why cancer patients have immune-system problems, hair loss, nausea and skin problems.

"The drugs look for a protein that is only found in cancer cells, not normal cells," said Lewis, who is also the director of the Translational Prostate Cancer Research Group and a fellow of the National Institute for Nanotechnology. "This system acts like a homing beacon for tumours."

These drugs, which are not yet available for physicians, could be used within a week of cancer diagnoses, predicts Lewis. The drugs would target cancerous cells throughout the body, attacking sneaky cancer cells that have already escaped and grown outside the site of the main tumour.

"If we can use 'smart' drugs that home in on tumours, we can dramatically decrease side effects for patients, lower the chance of recurrence and hopefully increase the cancer survival rate."

The research was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

## Glenrose dental clinic expansion serves need

The newly expanded Oral Health Services Clinic at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital opened its doors Oct. 18 to thank the partners and donors for their contributions.

The School of Dentistry led the fundraising campaign to update the existing Glenrose dental clinic with new equipment, and to expand the clinic capacity from four dated operatories to eight new operatories.

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Oral Health Services serves a segment of the population who would otherwise have difficulty accessing treatment. Not only does the expanded clinic provide access to dental care for older adults with mobility challenges, but it also gives dentistry and dental-hygiene students an increased opportunity for hands-on learning through "student enhanced" clinics.

"It has long been recognized that having opportunity to provide care for people with these challenges goes a long way in ensuring graduate dentists and hygienists will be comfortable welcoming these people into their practices," said Bill Presheing, clinical professor in the School of Dentistry. "This tremendous new opportunity for students to provide patient care at the Glenrose will have profound benefits."

## Engineering building gets new name

Don Hickey, vice-president (facilities and operations), in collaboration with Martin Ferguson-Pell, acting provost and vice-president (academic), and senior administration, has approved the renaming of the Environmental Engineering Building to the Brain and Aging Research Building.

## Head Shave raises funds for cancer patients

On Nov. 23, Jillian Payne was one of a number of students who had their heads completely shaved in support of the Alberta Cancer Foundation as part of the Engineering Head Shave fundraiser.

"I heard about the head shave during student orientation and thought it would be a good thing to do," said Payne, who raised \$6,000 for the event, \$2,000 of which came from the High Prairie Health Complex where her mother works as a nurse, and from her father's workplace at Tervita, an energy and environmental services company.

This year's fundraising figure is not final, but organizers say it should total nearly \$20,000. To donate, visit the Engineering Head Shave page at the Alberta Cancer Foundation for details.

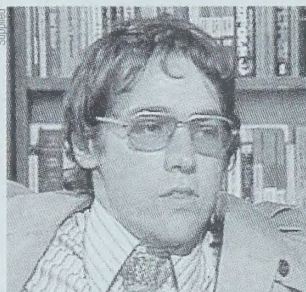
The event began in 2003, when then-engineering students Gary and Graeme Wicentowich plotted to raise \$1,000 for their father, Ron, who was diagnosed with cancer. That initial event raised \$12,000.

## Remembering Larry Pratt 1944-2012

### Political scientist had a mind for matters that matter

Folio Staff

The University of Alberta community is mourning the passing of Larry Pratt, whose acclaim as one of the most powerful intellectuals in Canadian political economy theory was surpassed only by his regard in the Department of Political Science. He was 68.



Larry Pratt

Born in Toronto in 1944, Pratt grew up in the small town of Robin just outside of Kingston. He left home for Ottawa, where he received a bachelor of arts from Carleton University before receiving a master's from the University of Toronto, then heading overseas for a PhD from the London School of Economics.

In 1971, Pratt came to the U of A, and never left.

Across all four dimensions of a successful career—teaching, collegiality, research and public dissemination of significant information—Pratt was fully engaged throughout his illustrious

28-year-career, usually running at full throttle.

"As an instructor, he was known to be a dedicated but demanding teacher of international relations," wrote Jim Lightbody, who joined the university in 1971 at the same time as his dear friend. "From Thucydides to the Suez, he knew his stuff and taught it with precision and verve. For the sturdiest of his students he was a challenging mentor, guide and supervisor."

As a colleague, Pratt was active in the department throughout his career, serving on various committees and acting as associate chair from 1975-77. As former chair Roberta McKown wrote in support of his promotion, "He is a brilliant, hard-working and very nice colleague." In 1975, Pratt was instrumental in establishing the Strategic Studies Centre. He was a founding member of *Studies in Political Economy* and served on its editorial board, as well as those of *Canadian Forum* and the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

But it is for his life as a researcher that he will be best remembered in academic circles.

Co-written with John Richards, *Prairie Capitalism: Power and Influence in the New West* was perhaps Pratt's defining work. The book was one of three finalists for the Governor-General's Award for non-fiction in 1980 and received a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian Historical Association.

In his Canadian Political Science Association review, Canada's pre-eminent scholar of the Canadian

political nationality, Donald Smiley, wrote, "I cannot comment on *Prairie Capitalism* except in superlatives; by a wide margin I find it the most stimulating and intellectually satisfying book in Canadian Affairs that has appeared in the past decade."

**"For the sturdiest of his students he was a challenging mentor, guide and supervisor."**

Jim Lightbody

In 1976, Pratt wrote *The Tar Sands: Syncrude and the Politics of Oil*, which successfully framed Alberta's most important policy problem 30 years ahead of its time.

"Even today, the web remains vibrant with debate surrounding the oilsands as a policy issue, a public forum to which Larry contributed until 2011," wrote Lightbody. "As I read the passage of these past 36 years, all five of his projected adverse consequences have evolved almost exactly as he originally predicted."

That Pratt would continue to be involved in public discussion of substantive matters, wrote Lightbody, would come as no surprise to those who knew him.

"In the end, it can be said of my colleague Dr. Larry Pratt that what was important to him were simply the matters that matter."

- with notes from Jim Lightbody



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# on the Web

[www.folio.ualberta.ca](http://www.folio.ualberta.ca)

## classified ads

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

LUXURY HOME FOR RENT OR SALE IN EDMONTON. Available Dec 15th. Newly renovated, 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home in the prestigious Riverbend community, with 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. Fully furnished. Rent it for \$2,900/month or buy it for \$619,000. For more info contact Mitra at [artym@shaw.ca](mailto:artym@shaw.ca) or 780-707-7724. View following link for pictures: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JbMyFuz2ts&feature=youtu.be>

LUXURY CONDO NEAR HIGH STREET AREA. Gorgeous river valley view, 1 bedroom plus study area, washer and dryer, outdoor deck, exceptional entertaining and meeting areas, 5 minute drive or 20 minute walk to U of A. Fully furnished including bedding and dishes. Price includes all utilities, satellite, internet, underground parking, swimming pool, sauna and work out room. Short term lease available. Pet free, non-smoking and adult only. \$1,950/month. and \$1,950 damage deposit. Phone: 780-905-5262.

TWO BEDROOM CONDO IN BELGRAVIA. \$1,050/month includes fridge, stove, microwave, heat, water, parking stall. Quiet building close to U of A, hospitals, river valley and LRT. Contact Daena 780-436-8713

SOUTH BELGRAVIA. New 3 bedroom house. \$2,880/month. Phone 780-886-6005 or for photos email [daverichards@telus.net](mailto:daverichards@telus.net).

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

SHARED OWNERSHIP IN THE COLUMBIA VALLEY. Looking for 3 like-minded parties to share beautiful vacation home near Invermere B.C. Three year old custom built home on small acreage; 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, plus a one-bedroom suite above the garage. View details at [www.juniperheights.shutterfly.com](http://www.juniperheights.shutterfly.com).

### MISCELLANEOUS

THE COFFEE THAT PAYS!! Your own home-based business, earn money on a coffee break. Ask Donna Maskell 780-297-3753. [www.coffeeidiva.ca](http://www.coffeeidiva.ca).

### SERVICES

NEED SOMEONE TO WALK YOUR DOG? FEED YOUR CAT? I mind your home, your pets. Residential house sitting & pet care. Call Mona at 780-498-2917.

### GOODS FOR SALE

10TH ANNIVERSARY MINKHA SALE/OPEN HOUSE. Come & celebrate with us - Beautiful hand-knit sweaters, shawls, scarves from women's cooperative in Bolivia, poorest country in South America. Pure alpaca/pima cotton. ALL PROCEEDS return to knitters. New this year - beautiful accessory scarves. Buy a gift that gives back! Saturday December 8th, 2012 at Windsor Park Community Hall, 11840-87 Ave. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Linda 780-436-5732 or Jennifer 780-434-8105. [www.minkhasweaters.com](http://www.minkhasweaters.com).

# Students win world championships for their biotech startup

Richard Cairney

A student group from the University of Alberta won first place at an international competition after discovering a way to turn waste paper into valuable chemicals.

Nine students from the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science won the entrepreneurship category of the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The students developed plans for a startup biotech company called Upcycled Aromatics to turn paper that cannot be recycled into high-value specialty chemicals including shikimic acid, a key ingredient in the flu-busting prescription drug Tamiflu.

The team projected it would earn \$4.5 million in annual revenues from shikimic acid production alone at just one site, using waste paper from the Edmonton Waste Management Centre. The technology the students developed is set up at an industrial scale and fits into a standard industrial-sized cargo container.

Chemical engineering student Crystal Theodore says working with an interdisciplinary team to design the system was an exciting and valuable experience.

Theodore originally began her academic career with two years of biochemistry at the University of Lethbridge, but decided to pursue engineering at the U of A.

"I realized I was more interested in the application of science than the research side," she said. "And chemical engineering is so broad that it applies to physical science and life sciences together with mathematics and economics."

Judges at the competition noted that engineering and biochemistry aspects of the Upcycled Aromatics plan were virtually seamless.

"We developed our engineering applications and our biology applications hand in hand," said Theodore. "A lot of times in biology you have things developed at the lab scale but you don't look at how it will be implemented at the industrial



Crystal Theodore is part of the U of A team that won the entrepreneur category of the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition at MIT.

scale. Engineers can look at a process and optimize it for certain conditions, and in this team we had engineering students asking the biology students questions; then both aspects are developed together."

The science behind the process is relatively straightforward, according to biochemistry student David Brown. The waste paper is a rich source of cellulose, a food source for the bacteria *Pseudomonas putida*. The team inserts a metabolic pathway into the bacteria, enabling the bacteria to convert the cellulose to glucose, then convert the glucose into different chemicals.

With easily made genetic tweaks, the company could also produce cinnamic acid, commonly used to manufacture

"We need to educate engineers on the bioscience side of it, and we need to educate scientists on the engineering side and find common ground. It's important to have people from different disciplines share this common ground."

Dominic Sauvageau

artificial sweeteners, and hydroxycinnamic acid, which has applications as varied as perfumes and pharmaceuticals.

The feed stock for the company would be free because the Edmonton Waste Management Centre actually pays to dispose of the unrecyclable paper.

A former captain of the Golden Bears cross-country running team, Brown knows about working in a group dynamic. But he says this experience took his knowledge and skills to a new level.

"Basically, half the team is from science and half the team is from engineering," he said.

"It was probably the biggest group learning thing I have ever done."

Chemical engineering professor Dominic Sauvageau, who supervised the team, says the interdisciplinary nature of the emerging synthetic biology means finding new ways of working.

"We need to educate engineers on the bioscience side of it, and we need to educate scientists on the engineering side and find common ground," he said. "We have to work together more and more—as this field is developing, it's important to have people from different disciplines share this common ground." ■

## talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and at [www.news.ualberta.ca/events](http://www.news.ualberta.ca/events). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

### UNTIL JAN. 5

**Perceptions of Promise: Biotechnology, Society and Art.** This touring exhibition offers a compelling glimpse into a unique collaboration between scientists, scholars and nine Canadian and international artists working in a variety of mediums. This visually engaging exhibition challenges viewers to consider the positive and negative possibilities of biotechnology in general and stem cell research in particular. Enterprise Square.

### UNTIL JAN. 26

**U of A Museums present Immortal Beauty.** A collaboration between the U of A Museums and the Prince Takamado Japan Centre in the Faculty of Arts, Immortal Beauty celebrates the work of master calligrapher Shikō Kataoka, in the context of calligraphy-inspired works from the University of Alberta Art Collection. Admission by donation, Enterprise Square.

### UNTIL FEB. 15

**The Spacious Margin: Eighteenth-Century Printed Books and the Traces of Their Readers.** Curated by Sylvia Brown and John Considine, this exhibition explores marginalia found in 18th-century books. Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

### DEC. 1

**Alumni Association Volunteer Opportunity - Community Service Project, Edmonton.** Come out and join your fellow U of A Alumni as we support the Edmonton Food Bank's ETS Stuff a Bus campaign, hosted by Save-On Foods locations across Edmonton. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and support a great cause in the city, while wearing your best green and gold. Families are welcome to participate in this opportunity. For more information contact Kyla Amrhein at 780-492-4382 or [kyla.amrhein@ualberta.ca](mailto:kyla.amrhein@ualberta.ca). Noon.

### DEC. 5 OR 11

**Festive Luncheons.** Celebrate the season at the 2012 Festive Luncheons at Lister Centre. This is a great way for smaller faculties, departments and groups to celebrate the season. Full menu available at [ualberta.catertrax.com](http://ualberta.catertrax.com). Book your table now by emailing us at [info@classicfarecatering.ca](mailto:info@classicfarecatering.ca). 1-2 p.m. Lister Centre.

### DEC. 1

**The University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra presents Tanya and Elgar.** Featuring cellist and University of Alberta professor emerita Tanya Prochazka and the 2012 USO Concerto Competition winner, clarinetist Joshua Iverson. Admission by donation. 8-10 p.m. Convocation Hall.

### DEC. 1, 2

**Lux!** The Augustana Choir, Sangkor, and Mannskor will explore the symbolic nature of mid-winter and the solstice, darkness and light, through choral works drawn from the Medieval era to the 21st century. Tickets available at the door: \$18, \$14 students/seniors; \$45 family. 8-10 p.m. Augustana Chapel, Camrose.

### DEC. 3-14

**Centre for Teaching and Learning CTL | Moodle Basics Training.** This hands-on session will introduce you to the basic Moodle features and course development. After finishing this session, participants should be able to navigate through the Moodle site, configure your course settings, and add resources and activities. To register, go to [utsregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=6019](http://utsregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=6019). 1-30 Cameron Library.

### DEC. 4

**CIUS Seminar Series-Book Presentation.** Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies is presenting a discussion on the book *Unbridled Dissonance: The Second World War and*

*Socio-Political Identities in Ukraine, 1939-1941.* 3-4:30 p.m. 2-27 Athabasca Hall.

### DEC. 5

**Emergency First Aid with Level A CPR and AED.** St John Ambulance First Aid Course, One Day, \$105. In this one-day course, students will learn to recognize and provide interventions for life-threatening emergencies until medical aid arrives. Topics include CPR and choking for adults, shock and unconsciousness, severe bleeding, head and spinal injuries, major medical conditions, and AED training and certification. Please have your department APO send a note to [phil.haswell@ualberta.ca](mailto:phil.haswell@ualberta.ca) if you would like to register in this course. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. W5-085 ECFERF.

### DEC. 6 & 7

**Standard First Aid / Level C Course.** To register contact Karen Dow [kddow@ualberta.ca](mailto:kddow@ualberta.ca). 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 3-133 NREF.

### DEC. 6

**The Biomedicalized Body - Curator's Talk with Lianne McTavish.** This discussion will place the issues addressed by the artworks in *Perceptions of Promise* within a historical framework, discussing how conceptions of the human body have changed since the Renaissance. 12:15-1 p.m. Enterprise Square.

### DEC. 9

**A Christmas Past.** Join us for a traditional Rutherford House Christmas. Experience the unique sparkle of this elegant house with the halls decked for the holidays. Enjoy the sweet harmonies of seasonal music and taste cookies baked in a wood-burning oven. Visit the historic kitchen and sample some hot apple cider. Noon-4 p.m. Rutherford House. Regular admission to the museum applies: \$4, \$3 seniors and youth, \$12 family, children six and under free.

**Silent Night: Christmas Concert 2012.** Put on by the Wirth Institute, this afternoon will feature

carols sung by local Central European community choirs and professional musicians. Christmas cookies and hot beverages will be served. Admission by donation to the Campus Food Bank. 3-5 p.m. Convocation Hall

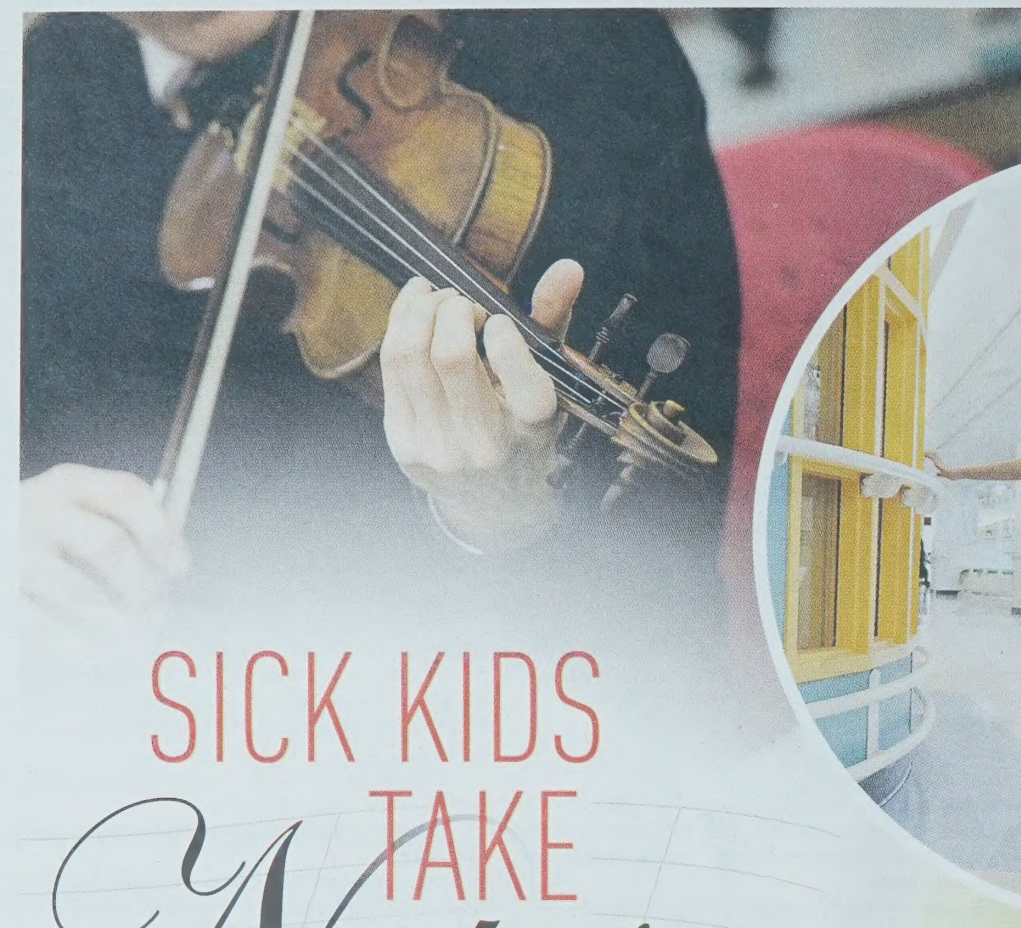
**Quel est l'Enfant? / What Child Is This?** A program of Christmas classics from the Renaissance to Mel Tormé, as well as some new gems by Norwegian sensation Ola Gjeilo. Chorale Saint-Jean, Western Canada's largest French-language choir, will be joined by the Chorale de l'École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc. Adults \$20, students/seniors \$15, children \$5. 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church (10025 105 St.)

### DEC. 12

**Educated Luncheon.** Fact or Fiction: Seeking international justice prevents world peace. Some believe that holding people accountable for committing war crimes hinders efforts at securing peace. Others argue that there can never be lasting peace without accountability for such crimes. In this session, Joanna Harrington, professor in the Faculty of Law and associate dean in the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, will examine the "peace vs. justice" debate with reference to the International Criminal Court and the situations of mass human-rights violations in various parts of Africa. \$10 includes lunch. Noon-1 p.m. 2-958 Enterprise Square.

### DEC. 13

**ArtsMASH.** Extension's Liberal Studies program invites you to this free open house, featuring Residential Interiors design projects and Visual Arts student artwork, as well as readings by our Women's Words Postcard Contest winners, all punctuated by complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts. A guest lecture will be given by internationally renowned artist Lyndal Osborne at 7 pm and a talk by Liberal Studies instructor Johanne Yakula, who will introduce her new book, *Historical Interiors of Alberta*, at 5 pm. 4:30-8 p.m. Second floor, Enterprise Square.



# SICK KIDS TAKE *Notes*

On Nov. 20, the University of Alberta Enterprise Quartet stopped by the Stollery Children's Hospital to give in-patient primary school students a live classical music experience and help the youngsters fulfil their music curriculum.

PHOTOS BY JOHN ULAN, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



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